

prosperity. This issue is especially timely, because the United States will be hosting a Ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Seattle later on this month. Public support of these WTO negotiations is necessary to ensure continued economic growth in the 21st Century.

The United States' economy is currently in a period of historic economic growth, low inflation, and low unemployment. America's open market plays a vital role in this achievement. Growth in the volume of American exports in goods and services accounted for more than 40% of overall U.S. economic growth in 1997. Today, exports represent 12% of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product. Export sales are now responsible for over 41% of the production of American semiconductors, 42% of aircraft, 43% of computers, and 68% of power turbines. Recent stories about the trade deficit also show promise. The resurgence of the economies of our Asian, Latin American, and European trading partners created an increase in American exports of \$2.9 billion totaling \$82 billion in August. The trade deficit dropped \$800 million last month to \$24.1 billion.

The recent economic news gives credence to the saying that "A rising tide lifts all boats." American exports help everyone from corporate CEOs to the average American worker. In 1997, over 11,500,000 jobs depended on American exports. In addition, export-supported jobs pay 13% more than the average domestic wage. High technology industry jobs that are directly supported by exports have averaged hourly earnings 34% higher than the national average. The continued bipartisan free trade policy has benefitted the American people.

It is important that the United States remain a leader in promoting policies of open markets worldwide. While our trade deficit has stabilized, we should remove remaining foreign barriers to American goods to reduce this deficit. American farmers, manufacturers and workers are hurt, when foreign countries use high tariffs, quotas, and questionable legal and safety procedures to lock American goods out of their markets. The President should make it a top priority to remove these barriers, and the Congress must give him the authority to achieve this objective.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) can play an important role in pursuing American trade objectives. All members of the WTO have to make commitments to reduce barriers to goods and services, and protect intellectual property rights. The WTO has an established procedure to ensure that countries meet their obligations. The United States should ensure that our trading partners meet their commitments. When our trading partners do not meet their obligations, such as the European Union has done concerning American agricultural goods, then we should use the WTO to apply as much

pressure as possible to bring these countries into compliance. The upcoming Seattle negotiations offer us a great opportunity to use the WTO to reduce more foreign barriers to American goods, agricultural products, and services. We should also ensure the growth of our high technology exports by making permanent the international moratorium on customs duties relating to electronic commerce.

It is also important that we realize that international trade meets many of our national security interests. As countries trade with the United States and each other, they learn the benefits of peace and stability to economic growth. These countries see the benefits of pursuing policies that support stability, which is a major American national security objective.

Last week, the Senate sent a strong message that the United States is committed to the principles of free trade by passing major trade legislation. However, the President and Congress must work together to pass another major piece of trade legislation to ensure American prosperity in the 21st Century. It is imperative that the President make a serious effort to work with the Congress to pass "fast track" legislation. As the next round of the WTO negotiations develop, it is important that American negotiators have the leverage to secure our trade policy objectives. In addition, "fast track" authority lets our trading partners know that any agreement they negotiate with the United States will not be subject to exemptions and gross re-writings by the special interests in Washington. When the negotiations concerning the WTO, the Free Trade Area of the Americas, and other ongoing trade talks come to fruition, the President will need to have "fast track" authority to ensure that the agreements are implemented. My hope is that we can pass "fast track" legislation soon in order to establish the framework for another century of American economic growth.

In conclusion, I hope that we can use National Trade Education Day to gain public support for the continued pursuit of policies based on the principles of free trade. Bipartisan American trade policies, based on the belief in open markets free of regulations and tariffs, have played a major role in causing the current American prosperity. The United States should continue to pursue free trade policies that will remove barriers to American exports. I urge my colleagues to establish the foundation for future prosperity by passing "fast-track" legislation during this Congress.●

#### TRIBUTE TO DAVID A. JUNGEMANN

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to David A. Jungemann, a U.S. Air Force retiree with over 22 years of active military service and a great citizen

from South Dakota who recently completed a very successful two-year term as Chairman of The Retired Enlisted Association TREA Senior Citizens League TSCL Board of Trustees. During his chairmanship, TSCL expanded its efforts to defend and protect the earned retirement benefits of older Americans. Through his leadership, TSCL was successful in expanding its legislative lobbying goals and objectives and, as a result, increased the League's membership from 600,000 to over 1.5 million members and supporters in just two years.

Dave was born on November 11, 1938 in Wolsey, SD. He graduated from Wolsey High School in May 1956, and in the following month, enlisted in the United States Air Force (USAF) and headed for Parks Air Force Base, California, for Basic Training. During his military career, Dave was stationed in Colorado, Texas, Florida, California, and Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota. His military career also took him to many overseas locations including Japan, Guam, and Thailand. During a nine-month period of Temporary Duty to Andersen Air Force Base on the island of Guam, he served in support of the ARC Light Missions over the Republic of Vietnam and in 1968, flew 10 combat missions over Vietnam as a Bomb/Navigation Systems Technician. His service gave him the opportunity to earn the Bronze Star Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, and numerous other awards and decorations.

With his military career behind him, Dave worked for the Douglas School System for over 14 years and subsequently retired from service to the State of South Dakota. During this period, he also served a two-year term as City Councilman for the City of Box Elder, South Dakota, and currently serves as Trustee for the Zion Lutheran Church in Rapid City, South Dakota.

What is truly remarkable about Dave Jungemann is that in addition to all the accomplishments I just mentioned, he still made time to contribute to the success of TREA and the TREA Senior Citizens League. For instance, he served on the TREA Chapter 29 Board of Directors for 9 years and the TSCL Board of Trustees for 4 years, during which time he completed a two-year term as Chairman. Even today, Dave still participates in numerous parades and ceremonies to honor the veterans of the United States of America.

Today I rise in recognition of a great American, a solid citizen of South Dakota and a man who is a symbol of service to God, Country, State, veterans and older Americans. Congratulations on your accomplishments, Dave, and I wish you a Happy Birthday this coming Veterans' Day, a fitting time to celebrate the life of a distinguished American veteran.●